

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 182533 TOSEC 080077
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182533 TOSEC 080077

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EXDIS, FOR UNDER SEC. HABIB FM UNDER SEC. BENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IS

SUBJECT:ISRAEL'S F-16 REQUEST

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME A PAPER, WHICH
PURPORTS TO HAVE COME THROUGH ME TO THE SECRETARY AND WHICH
WAS PUT ON THE PLANE LAST SUNDAY, DISCUSSING OPTIONS FOR
DEALING WITH ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR F-16S AND COPRODUCTION
RIGHTS.

2. MY STRONGLY HELD VIEW ON THE COPRODUCTION QUESTION IS
THAT WE SHOULD GIVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO ISRAEL THAT WE
WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER F-16 COPRODUCTION NOW OR AT
SOME FUTURE DATE. ON THE CONTRARY WE SHOULD TRY TO
DISABUSE THEM EARLY OF THIS IDEA, NOT ONLY FOR THE COST
REASONS IDENTIFIED IN THE PAPER (COSTS WE WILL INEVITABLY
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HAVE TO FINANCE) BUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS AS WELL. SUCH
COPRODUCTION WILL, LIKE THE KFIR, BE A CONTINUING SOURCE
OF SERIOUS US-ISRAELI TENSION. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE A
POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF RECONCILING THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL WITH
THE CONDITIONAL COMMITMENT WE HAVE TO PROVIDE PARTICIPATION

IN THE THIRD COUNTRY F-16 SALES TO THE FOUR NATO ALLIES

WHO ARE ALSO COPRODUCING F-16S. I RECOGNIZE THE IMPORT-
ANCE OF THE F-16 ISSUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS BUT
FOR ALL OF THE REASONS NOTED ABOVE, I WOULD URGE A STIFF
LINE ON THE MATTER OF COPRODUCTION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, POLICIES, ARMS PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE182533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: UNDER SECRETARY BENSON
Enclosure: HR ALSO LY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770278-0625
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708100/aaaadgwr.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4bac8c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1398823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAEL'S F-16 REQUEST
TAGS: MASS, IS, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4bac8c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009